

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 8066

BILL NUMBER: HB 1934

DATE PREPARED: Apr 5, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Apr 5, 2001

SUBJECT: Professional Occupations.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill allows distance learning methods to account for 50% of continuing education requirements for all professions, except doctors, nurses, and dentists. The bill authorizes the executive director of the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency to review appeals of denials of the renewal of certain professional and occupational licenses. It authorizes a person to file an appeal with the executive director of the Professional Licensing Agency if the person's license renewal is denied by a board for which the Professional Licensing Agency performs administrative functions, duties, and responsibilities.

The bill also provides that the Board of Land Surveyors must include three members who are engaged in the practice of land surveying on a full-time basis and at least two members who are engaged in the practice of land surveying on a part-time basis.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Review of Appeals:* The bill as amended requires the executive director of the Professional Licensing Agency to review appeals of applicants if the applicant appeals a denial for renewal of a professional license. The Agency will be able to absorb the costs associated with review of renewal denials within their budget.

Distance Learning Continuing Education: This bill would affect six agencies and at least 35 occupations and professions. However, doctors, nurses, and dentists would not be permitted to have 50% of continuing education completed with distance learning methods.

The regulatory boards which oversee these various occupations and professions will need to rewrite their rules to conform to changes in continuing education requirements specified in this bill. The budgetary impact will depend upon whether the boards already have extensive agendas. It is likely that these boards would

increase the frequency of board meetings for about six to twelve months. This could result in additional days of meetings which would require additional expenditures for per diem and travel reimbursement.

A list of the agencies and the professions or occupations requiring continuing education for license renewal purposes are shown below.

Department of Insurance -- Insurance agents

Department of Health -- Primary radon tester, Radon laboratory tester, Radon Mitigators, Secondary radon tester

State Emergency Management Agency -- Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Services Primary Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician, First Responders, Paramedic

Health Professions Bureau -- Advanced Practice Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Dentists, Health Facility Administrators, Marriage and Family Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Podiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Veterinarian Technicians, Veterinarians

Office of the State Fire Marshal -- Fire Service Instructors I, II, III, IV

Professional Licensing Agency -- Auctioneers, Certified Public Accountants, Cosmetologists, Funeral Directors, Land Surveyors, Real Estate Salespersons and Brokers, Real Estate Appraisers

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) The Professional Licensing Agency registers individuals as approved providers of continuing education. If license holders choose a home study program instead of onsite continuing education training, the number of providers may decline along with registration fees.

The Agency reports that approximately 541 continuing education sponsors are licensed by the Board of Accountancy. These licenses must be renewed after three years at a cost of \$25. In addition, continuing education sponsors are registered with the Real Estate Appraiser Licensure and Certification Board. These licenses must be renewed after two years at a cost of \$50 per license. It is not certain how many real estate continuing education sponsors are currently registered.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Professional Licensing Agency; Department of Insurance; Department of Health; State Emergency Management Agency; Health Professions Bureau; Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Kim Tarnacki, Professional Licensing Agency, (317) 232-3901; Barb McNutt, Health Professions Bureau.